

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By GILES S. PORTER, M. D., *Director*

**The After-Care of Infantile Paralysis Cases.**—The end results expressed in percentages of recovery of function following infantile paralysis depends chiefly upon two factors: First, the extent of damage to the nerve cells in the anterior horn of the cord at the time of the original infection; and second, the type of after-care to which these unfortunate individuals are subjected. The majority of these patients, fortunately, do not show a total destruction of these nerve centers, the nerve cells being only partially affected, in spite of the fact that the muscle group supplied from this center may show total inactivity in the initial stage. If this muscle group is immobilized and given complete, continuous and uninterrupted physiological rest in a neutral position over a sufficient length of time, then gradually reeducated, all of the possible recovery will take place and the maximum restoration of function occur. If, on the other hand, the case is denied the intelligent application of the above mentioned basic principles, it very often happens that a stretch paralysis is superimposed upon a neuromuscular paralysis and recovery is either retarded or permanently prevented. It is very common to see in the metropolitan centers cases in which neglect has resulted in the sacrifice of a large portion of possible repair, and cases in which either the original condition was entirely unrecognized or the importance of the general underlying fundamental principles of the after-treatment were likewise not understood. *Most paralytic deformities are preventable.*

It has been the pleasure of the undersigned to see a complete foot drop, resulting from poliomyelitis and neglect of splinting and protection which added a stretch paralysis to a neuromuscular paralysis, recover approximately 100 per cent function after a few months of proper treatment, in spite of the fact that several years had elapsed between the onset of disease and beginning of treatment. It is a well known fact that probably the majority of cases of infantile paralysis are of the abortive variety, and next in frequency, those resulting in a comparatively small amount of paralysis. A very appreciable percentage of the scoliosis cases seen in the orthopedic clinics are unquestionably the result of unrecognized infantile paralysis.

It is very difficult for patients to appreciate the fact that if a muscle group is strong enough to accomplish a certain function, that there could be an element of abuse present in overtaxing its power by repeatedly going through this motion. Use of a partially paralyzed muscle group is only beneficial up to a point of physiological fatigue, at which point further and continued activity produces retrograde change. A partially paralyzed patient who can walk one block without overtaxing a limited musculature can unquestionably entirely neutralize the benefits of the exercise by walking a second block.

Probably the most valuable single method of reeducating partially paralyzed muscle groups is the underwater gymnasium. The rapidity with which improvement becomes evident in these patients fortunate enough to have the benefit of such a pool is sometimes amazing. The benefit, however, is again in direct proportion to the finesse with which the prescribed movements are selected and supervised. The general activity of a child, as in swimming, has no particular benefit because, left to their own resources, they will develop the remaining active groups, resulting in further disproportion with those affected in the paralysis. Partially paralyzed muscle groups operate absolutely under the law of supply and demand and will improve only when a proper conservation is adhered to.

From braces which have an important phase in the proper care of partially paralyzed muscles, come

two great benefits: First, and perhaps the most important, is the maintenance of proper position by which a partially paralyzed group of muscles is not overbalanced by a comparatively stronger group which has been fortunate enough to escape the destructive influence of the causative agent of infection. Secondly, the mechanical help possible to obtain from the braces. In the early stages, the first is by far more important.

It is not uncommon to observe under proper treatment, functional improvement over a period of two, or even more, years following the inception of the disease, and the surgical reconstructive measures are seldom justifiable under eighteen months, or until sufficient time has elapsed under proper treatment, to allow an accurate estimation of the actual residual paralysis to be made.—Harold B. Barnard, M. D., Associate Chief of Staff of Orthopedic Hospital, Los Angeles.

**Changed Hour for Heart Committee Broadcast.**—The adoption of daylight saving time in eastern cities has necessitated a change in the hour of the radio broadcast sponsored by the Heart Committee of the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association. The new schedule is as follows:

KJBS—Tuesday, 11:15 to 11:30 a. m.

KFRC—Tuesday, 4 to 4:15 p. m.

**Permanent Quarantine on Clams and Mussels.**—The State Board of Public Health at its regular meeting held in San Francisco April 11, 1931, established a permanent quarantine upon clams and mussels during the months of June, July, August, and September of each year. This quarantine covers the entire California coast from Monterey County to the Klamath River in Del Norte County, with the exception of the bay of San Francisco.

Under the provisions of this quarantine order, the sale or offering for sale of clams and mussels gathered from the specified territory during the months of June, July, August, and September of each year is prohibited.

## CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

*Director of the Board*

### News Items, July 1931

Citations have been issued calling the following licentiates before the board at its regular meeting to be held at Native Sons Hall, San Francisco, legal hearings scheduled for 10 a. m., Tuesday, July 7, and continuing until the calendar has been completed:

David M. Angus, M. D., Seattle. Record of conviction: Alleged illegal operation.

Schuyler A. Barber, M. D., Porterville. Record of conviction: Narcotic violation.

Silas J. Brimhall, M. D., Elsinore. Alleged narcotic violation.

Silvius S. Craig, M. D., Wilmar. Record of Colorado: Revocation.

Fay E. Cramer, M. D., Hawthorne. Federal narcotic conviction.

Cecil R. Drader, M. D., Greenville. Narcotic conviction.

Philip Dymont, M. D., San Diego. Record of revocation of Georgia State certificate.

Suzuno Eda, Midwife, Fresno. Violation of Subdivision 16 of Section 14.

Edgar Ewing, M. D., Huntington Beach. Plea of guilty to alleged narcotic violation.

William C. Fiske, M. D., Hermosa Beach. Plea of guilty to manslaughter charge.

William B. Hamilton, M. D., Salt Lake City, Utah. Based on Utah charges.

Orient C. Higgins, M. D., Porterville. Narcotic conviction.

Christopher Howson, M. D., Oakland. Aiding and abetting an unlicensed practitioner.

Denwood N. L. Newbury, M. D., Spokane, Washington. Narcotics.

Ralph Newcomb, M. D., Lakeport. Violation of probation.

Asa Frye Speicher, M. D., Los Angeles. Alleged narcotic violation.

David A. Stevens, M. D., Los Angeles. Record of conviction: Moral charge.

Darrington Weaver, M. D., Los Angeles. Narcotic conviction.

On June 11, 1931, Governor Rolph signed Senate Bill 131, which will prove a valuable addition to the statutes designed to limit to bona fide institutions the granting of professional degrees. Under the existing laws any individuals can incorporate and obtain the right to grant professional degrees, without financial responsibility, physical equipment or educational qualifications. Senate Bill 131 requires every institution that grants a professional degree to file annually with the Superintendent of Public Instruction a report giving the names of the faculty, curriculum taught, names and addresses of the students, the degrees conferred, and the names of the individuals upon whom the degrees have been conferred.

An investigation report relates that Raymond H. Albers, licensed chiropractor, on May 20 pleaded guilty in Vallejo to a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act in that he failed to use the suffix "D. C." or the word "Chiropractor" in conjunction with his use of the prefix "Dr.," and judgment was suspended on condition that he no longer violate the Medical Practice Act.

According to a Vancouver *Press* dispatch, printed in the San Francisco *Examiner* of May 26, 1931, Dr. Charles Bee Alexander is reported to have been sentenced to two years in the Washington State Penitentiary, asserted to have been based upon his alleged violation of the banking laws.

"The Tulare County Grand Jury today indicted Dr. S. A. Barber, sixty-one, Porterville physician, and Mrs. Jeannette Schwartz, a nurse, jointly, on two counts charging performance of two illegal operations on Miss Virginia Tarleton, nineteen, of Mendota, Fresno County. Doctor Barber is now serving an eight months' sentence in the Tulare County jail for the sale of narcotics to a Porterville woman. Suit was instituted today against Dr. Barber and Dr. O. C. Higgins, seventy-six, also of Porterville, by Dr. H. A. Todd, whose wife was sold narcotics, asking \$250,000 from the two of them for the alleged loss of the society and companionship of his wife, due to the narcotics they supplied her . . ." (Fresno *Republican*, May 21, 1931). (Previous entry, June 1931.)

According to reports, "Dr." Arthur M. Benson, also known as M. V. Benson, who was formerly connected with the concern known as the Gilbert Thayer Foundation in Los Angeles, is now alleged to be an inmate of the Columbia Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia, under the name of Edward M. Dodge, following his asserted conviction of violation of the narcotic laws. (Previous entry, February 1928, and June, 1930.)

Investigation reports relate that Benjamin A. Burrill, Vallejo, licensed chiropractor, on May 20 pleaded guilty to a violation of the Medical Practice Act, in that he failed to use the suffix "D. C." or the word "Chiropractor" in connection with the use of the prefix "Dr." and judgment was suspended on condition that he no longer violate the Medical Practice Act.

On May 25 E. E. Cary is reported to have been found guilty in Los Angeles of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was later sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 or serve fifty days in the city jail, sentence being suspended. He is reported as having left the state.

"W. J. Conway, Indian medicine man, was arrested this afternoon by J. W. Davidson, inspector for the State Board of Medical Examiners, on a warrant charging him with practicing medicine without a legal license. . . . The investigation came immediately following the death Tuesday of Mrs. Mary Marzola after she had taken medicine alleged to have been administered by Conway" (Previous entries, September 1929; January 1931.) Inspector Davidson closes his report with the following statement: "His records would lead us to believe that he does about \$100 to \$150 a day, and we can readily understand how he would be willing to pay a \$100 fine."

"Dr. O. C. Higgins, seventy-six, Porterville physician, was admitted to probation this afternoon by Judge Frank Lambertson on a charge of selling narcotics. Terms of probation include a \$750 fine, payable in three monthly instalments of \$250 each, beginning June 15, and a one-year suspended jail sentence. Doctor Higgins was arrested the afternoon of January 15, a few minutes after he sold Mrs. H. A. Todd of this city some morphin. State narcotic agents had supplied the Visalia woman with marked money, which she gave to Doctor Higgins in exchange for the drug" (Visalia *Times-Delta*, May 18, 1931).

"Charles Kent, erstwhile 'doctor,' conducting the 'Scientific Health Institute,' at 822 North Broadway, Santa Ana, where he advertised the cure of many serious ailments, from heart trouble, pneumonia and St. Vitus' dance to milk leg, paralysis and insanity, operated under a diploma characterizing him as a 'Doctor of Eliminopathy' and used only massage and a common household treatment of the intestines, it was disclosed yesterday when he pleaded guilty to practicing without a license and received a suspended sentence of sixty days in the county jail. A condition of the suspension is that he pay \$50 as a fine . . ." (Orange *News*, May 13, 1931). (Previous entry, June 1931.)

"Although he claimed he sold only Chinese herbal medicine, Lee Chong Wing, 142 East Washington Street, was convicted on charges of violating the Wright Act by Police Judge Johnson yesterday" (Stockton *Record*, May 27, 1931).

Chief White Eagle, charged in Long Beach with violation of the Medical Practice Act, pleaded guilty on March 2, 1931, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 or serve one hundred days in the city jail, sentence being suspended for two years on condition of no further violation of the Medical Practice Act.

T. Foo Yuen, San Bernardino Chinese herbalist, on February 21, 1931, is reported to have pleaded guilty to a violation of the Medical Practice Act and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, said sentence being suspended.